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DE RUEHEK #0812/01 2051325
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FM AMEMBASSY BISHKEK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2510
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3200
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1485
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3538
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2924
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BISHKEK 000812

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [KG](#)

SUBJECT: KYRGYZ ELECTION: OBSERVERS COMMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION

REF: A. BISHKEK 331

[1](#)B. BISHKEK 809

[1](#)C. BISHKEK 811

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[1](#)1. (U) Summary: On July 24, international and domestic organizations to the July 23 Kyrgyz presidential election released their initial findings and observations. OSCE/ODIHR representatives described the July 23 presidential election as a "disappointment." ENEMO and the Alliance of Civic Organizations witnessed similar irregularities. However, the CIS and SCO Election Observation Missions concluded that the elections were "free and fair." End Summary.

OSCE/ODIHR MISSION "DISAPPOINTED"

[1](#)2. (U) OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission (EOM) Head Radmila Sekerinska and Head of the delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Consiglio Di Nino held a press conference July 24 to announce their preliminary findings and conclusions, and to provide additional comments on the report. Di Nino, a Canadian Senator and the Special Coordinator of the OSCE short-term observers, said that OSCE/ODIHR was "disappointed that the election failed to meet OSCE standards." He noted irregularities such as ballot box stuffing, unauthorized individuals directing the precinct election commissions, and the obstruction of short-term observers from witnessing vote counts. Sekerinska added that "sadly, the conduct did not show progress we were hoping for" and that it fell short of meeting key OSCE standards and commitments. She said that the secrecy of the vote was not fully respected, media coverage was biased in favor of the incumbent, and that the candidates faced an "uneven playing field." Sekerinska said that the EOM would stay in Kyrgyzstan for several more weeks to monitor the handling of complaints by the government and follow election-related legal procedures.

ENEMO CITES SERIOUS VIOLATIONS

¶3. (U) The European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) released a statement July 24 noting serious violations during voting and vote counting. ENEMO fielded twenty short-term observers from eleven countries to observe the voting process. ENEMO observers witnessed ballot box stuffing, multiple voting, and organized pressure on the electorate. As with the OSCE/ODIHR observers, ENEMO representatives stated that precinct election commission members denied access to vote counting and tabulation. They also saw voters being transported to polling stations and forced to vote by men wearing Ak Jol party uniforms. (Note: Ak Jol is the party that backed incumbent President Kurmanbek Bakiyev. End Note.)

DOMESTIC OBSERVERS WITNESS SIMILAR VIOLATIONS

¶4. (U) The Alliance of Civic Organizations, which fielded 2,886 domestic election observers, concluded that the election was marred with irregularities and presented numerous examples during their press conference. Alliance observers witnessed ballot stuffing and pressure on voters from government officials, primarily in Talas, Chui and Issyk Kul Oblasts. They observed multiple voting, voting by election commission members voting for other people, the distribution of several ballots to voters, and several violations during the vote count. One of its leaders, Asiya Sasykbayeva of Interbilim, stated that the elections were a "farce" and that they had "never observed such a great number of violations."

CIS AND SCO OBSERVERS: ELECTIONS WERE FREE AND FAIR

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¶5. (U) Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Election Observation Missions reported that the presidential election was "open and free." Head of the CIS mission, Sergey Lebedev, stated that the 136 CIS observers had "not observed any serious violations of voters' rights." The SCO mission of six observers came to a similar conclusion, reporting that the election was "conducted transparently and in line with Kyrgyz legislation." The SCO mission also claimed that observers from other organizations came up with similar conclusions.
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